

A BIT OF HOPE AND LOVE
All Saints Lutheran Church "Oasis of Joy"
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EARLY MAY, 2011

DEAR FRIENDS,

Still thinking about Easter ... wow: WHAT A SUNDAY!@!! ... chaos, noise, joy ... lots of emotion.

And ... Easter continued the "Sunday after" ... it's never over.

As we move into the spring and summer ----- we often have this sense that "the church year" is done.
I'd like to see this summer as an "**alleluia summer**" ----- *a summer when the church is FULL ... our finances stay STRONG ... and the SPIRIT OF GOD just vibrates through the building.*

Possible? Is it naïve??? Oh, well ... we'll see!!

Is your mind-heart-and-soul full of all kinds of emotions, feelings, and thoughts????

Like I said Sunday morning ... "I don't know where to begin ... when it comes to sharing my thoughts ... and how faith-and-God speak to all that's going on around us ..."

The death of Bin Laden ... the memories and spirits and feelings this event brings back for those so affected by what happened almost 10 years ago ...

The spiraling cost of gas ... which threatens the economy of so many businesses and families ...

The prayer book ... all of us facing obstacles in our daily journeys ...

Sunday mornings and Thursday nights ... we come together.

For at least a few moments ... stuff that could divide us ... well, it doesn't.

Rich or poor ... old and young ... Italian or Swedish ... married, divorced, single ... lonely or connected ... black, white, or purple ... Lutheran, Catholic, Jewish, or just plain confused!@!! ----- we share a moment ... we share a spirit ... we are together, by the grace of God.

For 37 years I've driven "up the driveway" ... and *it never gets old.*

(I get old ... but the journey doesn't!!)

I look at the grass and flowers and flags and bricks ... ***and it just plain feels good!!***

There need to be places in this world that are SAFE. It could be your porch ... a kid's bedroom ... a tree fort in the backyard. A basketball court your office ... grandma's house ... your church.

No pretense ... no pretending ... guilt-free ----- me and God ... our shared spirit.

It's easy to take a place like this for granted ... but we can't. Life is a gift ... safe places are a gift ...

Thanks for all you do to make it happen.

Here's to an "alleluia" spring and summer.

luv and joy

"rev"

HOW ABOUT SOME FINANCIAL NEWS???

A few months ago the congregation voted to re-structure our mortgage indebtedness. In layman's terms: we took our savings money and put it against our mortgage at Marquette Bank. We took out a line of credit with Marquette ... and used that to pay-off what existed on the mortgage.

This leaves us with an indebtedness with Marquette Bank of just under \$110,000.

Our goal is to continue to pay Marquette our original monthly mortgage payment of \$9324.

Assuming we can do this ... we will be debt-free in a year.

What a blessing this can be. Our finance committee and church council worked hard to put this program together. Of course ... it's all of us together ... giving what we can, and being steady in our support of All Saints ... making this possible. We'll continue to let you know how we're doing.

A FEW THINGS COMING UP

***This Sunday is MOTHERS' DAY** ----- we have our annual PLANT SALE ALL MORNING. Thanks to "Every Blooming Thing" and the Buikemas for making this possible. Our youth group benefits from our sale.

***Our kitchen needs a "little love"** ... so, we're having a "shower." We have a list of what the kitchen is asking for. If you'd like to make a donation ... bring your gift on SUNDAY, MAY 15 ----- unwrapped with your name on it. We'll have a little "reception" after each of our services.

***The last day of SUNDAY SCHOOL is May 22.** Our kids have a program between services in the sanctuary ... just a little fun and celebration. And ---- they will be singing at both services. Come and enjoy.

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE THE KIDS IN OUR CHURCH??? ----- *our Sunday School and Youth Group are incredible.*

Those of you who work with our kids and teach them ----- you plant such amazing seeds of goodness and grace and joy and love!@!! This is how miracles happen and how "good stuff" grows.

We move to our summer schedule on MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND ... May 29.

Worship will be at 8:30 & 10 ... and, of course, we continue with Thursday evenings at 7:30.

Hopefully soon we can start having our Thursday services outdoors.

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 7:30 ... is our annual BIKE BLESSING.

It's part of our regular worship ... and it's in memory of PATRICK MACKEY, son of John and Maureen.

It's a special nite ... and all those bikes!@?? ----- very inspiring.

VETERANS' LUNCHEON ... SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1:00.

The OUTREACH COMMITTEE wants to reach-out to veterans ... so, we contacted our local VFW chapter ... What has evolved is an afternoon for a group of veterans who are legally blind. Some of them reside at Hines VA Hospital ... others are still in their homes ... and they are excited simply TO GET OUT. Opportunities to help will be available on the sign-up table this Sunday.

LOOKING AHEAD

**Fun-fests for our St. Coletta's friends begin in June ... we'll let you know specific dates soon.*

**Annual STEAK FRY ... Saturday, July 9. *Heartland Car Wash ... Sunday, July 17*

**CELEBRATION OF EASTER ----- EVERY SUNDAY!@!!*

LOVE AND PEACE TO ALL ... AND I CLOSE WITH A BIT OF AN UN-SOLICITED "TRIBUTE" ...

***Every day ... especially in the green-ness of the spring ... I am stunned by the beauty of our grounds. Quietly and humbly ... every week ... Jim Melka's crew is here: cutting, pruning, and tilling the soil. A labor of love ... a gift of the spirit ----- to Jim and "company" ... THANK-YOU!!*